

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193957
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:GGRIFITHS:SP
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P 012133Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: HUGHES AIRWEST FILINGS

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REF: STATE 170446

1. DEPTOFF RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM ALLEGED REPORTER FROM TORONTO STAR INQUIRING ABOUT CURRENT AIR FARES DISPUTE BETWEEN U.S. AND CANADA. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION IT BECAME CLEAR THAT REPORTER WAS REFERRING APPARENTLY TO SUPER SAVER FARES PROBLEMS, SINCE ONLY THOSE US CARRIERS WHICH HAD FILED SUCH FARES WERE MENTIONED. HUGHES AIRWEST PROBLEM NOT MENTIONED DURING CONVERSATION. REPORTER EMPHASIZED HIS BELIEF THAT AIR FARES IN CANADA TOO HIGH, AND HIS HOPE THAT SUCH FARES WOULD COME DOWN. DEPARTMENT COMMENTS WERE GENERAL, NONCOMMITTAL IN NATURE.

2. HUGHES AIRWEST INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT IT DID NOT
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PAGE 02 STATE 193957

REFILE FARES PACKAGE AS SUGGESTED. HUGHES MAINTAINS THAT PETER STRANG, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF THE CTC, TOLD HUGHES AIRWEST THAT ITS FILINGS WERE STILL CONSIDERED ACTIVE FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECONSIDERATION, REGARDLESS OF WHAT ATC SAYS. CONSEQUENTLY, NO NEW FILING IS NEEDED ACCORDING TO THE CTC.

3. WE SEEM TO BE GETTING TWO CONFLICTING SIGNALS FROM GOC. IT MATTERS LITTLE TO HUGHES OR TO USG WHICH IS THE CORRECT SIGNAL, AS LONG AS WE RECEIVE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHAT IS REQUIRED BY GOC. USG WOULD BE CONCERNED HOWEVER, IF A FAVORABLE CTC RULING WERE CONSIDERED MEANINGLESS BY ATC BECAUSE IT CLAIMS THERE IS NO FILING BEFORE IT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTED CONFIRM HUGHES UNDERSTANDING RE PARA 2 FOREGOING BY CONTACTING STRANG OF CTC. DURING DISCUSSION, EMBOFF CAN ASK WHEN CTC DECISION ON HUGHES PETITION MAY BE EXPECTED. EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTED TO ASK ATC WHEN USG MAY EXPECT ANSWER TO ITS NOTE PROPOSING A DATE FOR CONSULTATIONS.

5. COMMENT: RE PARA 1 FOREGOING, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH TO INITIATE PUBLIC COMMENT ON HUGHES AIRWEST ISSUE. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED HOWEVER, IN EMBASSY EVALUATION OF CURRENT CANADIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF AIR FARES IN GENERAL, AND WHETHER ANYTHING SPECIFIC HAS APPEARED IN THE CANADIAN PRESS RE THE HUGHES AIRWEST MATTER. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: DISPUTES, AIRLINES, AIR FARES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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